allotment of Broker;

(c) what is the number of applications that were received for it by the Kutch Saurashtra Stock Exchange; and

(d) what is the number of Directors are at present on the Board of Kutch Saurashtra Stock Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Some complaints have been received regarding selection of members of Saurashtra Kutch Stock Exchange. The High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad has recently passed an order that the Stock Exchange would start functioning with those persons as members, who had secured, according to the norms laid down by the Screening Committee, 50 or more than 50 marks under the three heads, viz. Education, Financial Position and Experience. Further, the Exchange shall not permit others to act as members till further orders are passed by the Court. The Exchange has informed that matters relating to its membership are subjudice.

(c) Saurashtra Kutch Stock Exchange received a total number of 1587 applications for its membership;

(d) According the Articles of Association of the Exchange, the Council of Management will consist of 12 elected Directors, 3 Public Representatives, and upto 3 nominees of the Government.

World Bank's Office for National Renewal Fund

2685. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank having appreciated the policy of the present Government has offered $ 500 million from its IDA savings to India for its proposed National Renewal Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the composition and functions of the National Renewal Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No Sir, the question of utilising of IDA saving for the National Renewal Fund is under consideration.

(b) and (c) The details of the National Renewal Fund are being worked out.

Foreign exchange spent on purchase of office equipment

2686. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India for their office use, have over the past three years spent any foreign exchange on purchase / import of any office equipment including computers, audio-video equipment, still and movie cameras, display aids and other electronic items;

(b) if so, a year-wise list of items alongwith their prices in foreign exchange and equivalent rupees so procured during the past three years by each Ministry/ Departments may please be given; and

(c) whether Government are considering banning any further expenditure of foreign exchange for such purposes in view of the serious foreign exchange position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Tax Free Status to Power Sector Bonds

2687. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to grant tax free Status to 50% of the power sector bonds;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the estimated amount likely